REMARKS

The specification has been amended in order to correct grammatical errors contained therein. No new matter has been added. Claim 1 has been amended in order to correct grammatical errors contained therein. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Okamoto et al. Claims 1-8 also have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Ohnishi. Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection and urge reconsideration in light of the following comments.

The presently claimed invention is directed to a separating agent for enantiomeric isomers which comprises a polysaccharide derivative carried on a porous carrier. The porous carrier has an epoxy group and the epoxy group and part of the hydroxyl groups of the polysaccharide derivative are chemically bonded.

As discussed in the present specification, the separating agent of the present invention exhibits high optical resolving power, which is inherent in a polysaccharide derivative, together with having a high solvent resistance to overcome the problems with conventional polysaccharide separating agents. The prior art cited by the Examiner does not disclose the separating agents of the present invention.

Applicants are enclosing herewith for the Examiner's benefit copies of the Japanese references cited by him and English translations thereof prepared by the Japanese Patent Office.

The Okamoto et al reference discloses a separation column having a stable frit and a separation method of an optical isomer using the column. Although this reference discloses that a chemical bond can be formed between a silica gel carrier and a polysaccharide derivative, there is no

disclosure in this reference of the silica gel having an epoxy group so there certainly is no disclosure of a carrier having an epoxy group which reacts with part of the hydroxyl groups of a polysaccharide derivative to form a chemical bond. Therefore, this reference does not even present a showing of prima facie obviousness under 35 USC 103(a) with respect to the presently claimed invention.

The Ohnishi reference discloses a polysaccharide derivative chiral stationary phase used in the chromatographic separation of optical isomers. The carrier is discussed in paragraph [0016] of the English translation. Although this reference discloses in paragraph [0023] aminopropyl silanizing of the silica gel, there is no disclosure in this reference of providing an epoxy group on the carrier let alone reacting an epoxy group of the carrier with part of the hydroxyl groups of a polysaccharide derivative. Therefore, this reference like the previously discussed references, does not even present a showing of prima facie obviousness under 35 USC 103(a) with respect to the presently claimed invention.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the present application and to pass it to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

TFC/smd

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Encl: Replacement Abstract
JP 11-255671 and English translation thereof
JP 2002-350413 and English translation thereof
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